

Amendments to the claims

Sub E³
1-13 (cancelled)

14. (New) A golf practice device that helps a golfer develop an optimal golf swing, comprising:

a base adapted to overlie a ground surface;

a first post mounted to said base in upstanding relation relative to said ground surface;

a second post secured to an upper end of said first post in cantilevered relation thereto;

said second post being disposed in a substantially horizontal plane;

said second post being disposed at a substantially right angle to a line that extends from a target golf hole to a stationary golf ball supported by said ground surface;

said second post having a free end disposed in vertically spaced apart relation to said ground surface;

said free end adapted to be disposed substantially directly above said stationary golf ball;

a cradle interface secured to said free end;

a third post member adapted to be releasably engaged by said cradle interface;

said third post member, when releasably engaged by said cradle interface, being disposed substantially horizontally and being disposed substantially parallel to said line;

said third post member being at least partially covered by a cushioning material adapted to absorb kinetic energy so that the kinetic energy of a golf club in motion is at least partially absorbed by said cushioning material if said cushioning material is struck by said golf club;

said releasable engagement of said third post by said cradle interface enabling said third post to separate from said cradle interface if said cushioning material is struck by said golf club;

said third post having a first position where a free end thereof is further from said target hole than is said golf ball;

said third post having a second position where a free end thereof is closer to said target hole than is said golf ball;

said third post being in said first position when said device is used by a golfer having a first skill level; and

said third post being in said second position when said device is used by a golfer having a second skill level;

whereby golfers having differing skill levels may practice their golf swing by using said device.

15. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the third post is formed of low density polyethylene foam.

16. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the cradle interface engages said third post by a press fit.

17. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the cradle interface engages the third post by a magnetic coupling.

18. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the cradle interface engages the third post by a hook and loop fastener, there being a first hook and loop fastener secured to said cradle interface and a second hook and loop fastener secured to said third post, said first and second hook and loop fasteners being complementary to one another.

19. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the base includes a pair of horizontal support members disposed in a V-shaped configuration, said horizontal support members extending from said first post in a direction away from said stationary golf ball.

20. (New) The device of claim 6, further comprising weights secured to respective free ends of said horizontal support members.

21. (New) The device of claim 7, wherein said horizontal support members, said first post and said second posts are hollow, and further comprising an elastomeric assembly guide cord that extends through respective hollow interiors of said horizontal support members, said first post and said second post, beginning at said respective free ends of said horizontal support members and terminating at the free end of said second post, said elastomeric assembly guide cord maintaining said horizontal supports members in taut relation to said first post and maintaining said first post in taut relation to said second post.